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14 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
15
16 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
18
19 Plaintiff,
20
21 v.
22 DAVID ALLEN JONES,
23
24 Defendant.

25 CASE NO. 1:20-CR-00115-DAD
26
27 STIPULATION REGARDING EXCLUDABLE
28 TIME PERIODS UNDER SPEEDY TRIAL ACT;
29 FINDINGS AND ORDER
30
31 DATE: April 27, 2021
32 COURT: Hon. Dale A. Drozd

33
34 This case is set for sentencing on April 27, 2021. On May 13, 2020, this Court issued General
35 Order 618, which suspends all jury trials in the Eastern District of California “until further notice.”
36 Further, pursuant to General Order 611, this Court’s declaration of judicial emergency under 18 U.S.C.
37 § 3174, and the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council’s Order of April 16, 2020 continuing this Court’s judicial
38 emergency, this Court has allowed district judges to continue all criminal matters to a date after May 2,
39 2021.¹ This and previous General Orders, as well as the declarations of judicial emergency, were
40 entered to address public health concerns related to COVID-19.

41
42 Although the General Orders and declarations of emergency address the district-wide health
43 concern, the Supreme Court has emphasized that the Speedy Trial Act’s end-of-justice provision
44 “counteract[s] substantive openendedness with procedural strictness,” “demand[ing] on-the-record

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1 findings” in a particular case. *Zedner v. United States*, 547 U.S. 489, 509 (2006). “[W]ithout on-the-
 2 record findings, there can be no exclusion under” § 3161(h)(7)(A). *Id.* at 507. Moreover, any such
 3 failure cannot be harmless. *Id.* at 509; *see also United States v. Ramirez-Cortez*, 213 F.3d 1149, 1153
 4 (9th Cir. 2000) (explaining that a judge ordering an ends-of-justice continuance must set forth explicit
 5 findings on the record “either orally or in writing”).

6 Based on the plain text of the Speedy Trial Act—which *Zedner* emphasizes as both mandatory
 7 and inexcusable—General Orders 611, 612, 617, and 618 and the subsequent declaration of judicial
 8 emergency require specific supplementation. Ends-of-justice continuances are excludable only if “the
 9 judge granted such continuance on the basis of his findings that the ends of justice served by taking such
 10 action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.” 18 U.S.C.
 11 § 3161(h)(7)(A). Moreover, no such period is excludable unless “the court sets forth, in the record of
 12 the case, either orally or in writing, its reason or finding that the ends of justice served by the granting of
 13 such continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.” *Id.*

14 The General Orders and declaration of judicial emergency exclude delay in the “ends of justice.”
 15 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7) (Local Code T4). Although the Speedy Trial Act does not directly address
 16 continuances stemming from pandemics, natural disasters, or other emergencies, this Court has
 17 discretion to order a continuance in such circumstances. For example, the Ninth Circuit affirmed a two-
 18 week ends-of-justice continuance following Mt. St. Helens’ eruption. *Furlow v. United States*, 644 F.2d
 19 764 (9th Cir. 1981). The court recognized that the eruption made it impossible for the trial to proceed.
 20 *Id.* at 767-68; *see also United States v. Correa*, 182 F. Supp. 326, 329 (S.D.N.Y. 2001) (citing *Furlow* to
 21 exclude time following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the resultant public emergency).
 22 The coronavirus is posing a similar, albeit more enduring, barrier to the prompt proceedings mandated
 23 by the statutory rules.

24 In light of the societal context created by the foregoing, this Court should consider the following
 25 case-specific facts in finding excludable delay appropriate in this particular case under the ends-of-
 26 justice exception, § 3161(h)(7) (Local Code T4).² If continued, this Court should designate a new date
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28 ² The parties note that General Order 612 acknowledges that a district judge may make
 “additional findings to support the exclusion” at the judge’s discretion. General Order 612, ¶ 5 (E.D.
 Cal. March 18, 2020).

1 for the status conference. *United States v. Lewis*, 611 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2010) (noting any
2 pretrial continuance must be “specifically limited in time”).

3 **STIPULATION**

4 Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and defendant, by and
5 through defendant’s counsel of record, hereby stipulate as follows:

- 6 1. By previous order, this matter was set for sentencing on April 27, 2021.
- 7 2. By this stipulation, defendant now moves to continue the sentencing until May 24, 2021,
8 and to exclude time between April 27, 2021, and May 24, 2021, under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), B(iv)
9 [Local Code T4].
- 10 3. The parties agree and stipulate, and request that the Court find the following:
 - 11 a) Counsel desires additional time to further prepare for sentencing of this matter.
 - 12 b) Counsel believes that failure to grant the above-requested continuance would
13 deny him/her the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the
14 exercise of due diligence.
 - 15 c) The government does not object to the continuance.
 - 16 d) Based on the above-stated findings, the ends of justice served by continuing the
17 case as requested outweigh the interest of the public and the defendant in a trial within the
18 original date prescribed by the Speedy Trial Act.
 - 19 e) For the purpose of computing time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161,
20 et seq., within which trial must commence, the time period of April 27, 2021 to May 24, 2021,
21 inclusive, is deemed excludable pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), B(iv) [Local Code T4]
22 because it results from a continuance granted by the Court at defendant’s request on the basis of
23 the Court’s finding that the ends of justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest
24 of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.

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1 f) The parties also agree that this continuance is necessary for several reasons,
2 including but not limited to, the need to permit time for the defense to continue its investigation
3 and preparation for sentencing, specifically investigation into pending state court matters,
4 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A) and 3161(h)(7)(B)(i) and (iv).

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED.

6 Dated: April 15, 2021

7 PHILLIP A. TALBERT
Acting United States Attorney

8 _____
9 /s/ STEPHANIE M. STOKMAN
10 STEPHANIE M. STOKMAN
Assistant United States Attorney

11 Dated: April 15, 2021

12 _____
13 /s/ MEGHAN MCLOUGHLIN
MEGHAN MCLOUGHLIN
Counsel for Defendant
DAVID ALLEN JONES

14 **FINDINGS AND ORDER**

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 Dated: April 15, 2021

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18 _____
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE